

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 83

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 116

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 83—Relative to National Aphasia Awareness Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 10, 2012.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 83, Steinberg. National Aphasia Awareness Month.

This measure would declare that the Legislature recognizes June of each year as National Aphasia Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, Aphasia is a communication impairment caused by brain damage, typically resulting from a stroke; and

WHEREAS, While aphasia is most often the result of stroke or brain injury, it can also occur in other neurological disorders, such as in the case of a brain tumor; and

WHEREAS, Many people with aphasia also have weakness or paralysis in their right leg and right arm, usually due to damage to the left hemisphere of the brain, which controls language and movement on the right side of the body; and

WHEREAS, The effects of aphasia may include a loss or reduction in ability to speak, comprehend, read, and write, while intelligence remains intact; and

WHEREAS, Stroke is the third largest cause of death, ranking behind “diseases of the heart” and all forms of cancer; and

WHEREAS, Stroke is a leading cause of serious, long-term disability in the United States; and

WHEREAS, There are about 4.8 million stroke survivors alive today; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that there are about 700,000 strokes per year in the United States, with approximately one-third of these resulting in aphasia; and

WHEREAS, Aphasia affects at least 1,000,000 people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, More than 200,000 Americans acquire the disorder each year; and

WHEREAS, The National Aphasia Association is unique. Its mission is to educate the public to know that the word “aphasia” describes an impairment of the ability to communicate, not an impairment of intellect. The National Aphasia Association makes people with aphasia, their families and support systems, and health care professionals aware of the resources available to assist them to recover lost skills to the extent possible, to

compensate for skills that will not be recovered, and to minimize the psychosocial impact of the language impairment; and

WHEREAS, As an advocacy organization for people with aphasia and their caregivers, the National Aphasia Association envisions a society in which “aphasia” is a commonly understood word and resources are available for educating people with aphasia, their families, health care professionals, and the public on how people with aphasia can reclaim their quality of life; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature recognizes June of each year as National Aphasia Awareness Month; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.